Dear Henry, 6/23/86

I'm coming up on the pause in the day's occupation that here is not known as the Children's Hour but as Hufnagelling, after the cardiovascular surgeon who instructed me to spend at least one and preferably two hours a day flat on my back with my legs elevated. Not a good position for reading so the first hour I've selected is the hour of the one soap opera that Lil takes in. Her mother or mine, of, perhaps, my grandmother, got her hooked on it. (My immigrant grandmother used to talk back to both the characters and the announcers reading ads back as long ago the 1930s, while she'd knit and listen.) So, in the few minutes before it begins, thanks for your letter of the 17th and the curbstone report. With regard to Rush, if you asked my advice I'd say forget about it after making the record you've made. We tend to anger over abuse and sometimes we waste more time that the matter is worth. As I told you, I told Johann not to write me any more and that if he did I'd ignore him. Which is a pleasure!

As of today I've not heard from Kantor. (But in a Sunday Post reprint of an article by Scalia I got a nice line I'll use in my appeal: "Moral issues are intractible.") Thanks for speaking to him.

What you first said when we spoke a week or so ago, that people whose views do not coincide, can still get along with each other, is, of course, true. But the increasing opposite practise, I think, represents a retreat from civilized conduct that, nothing personal intended, does coincide with the emergence of radical right commentators, politicians and groups like the PACs. We are, in so many ways, so many of them social and political, retreating from what I believe is civilization and civilized conduct. (And I'm so happy not to have to be civilized with Rush now!)

...The professionalism of this and I therefore presume other aoap operas is incredible! With stinking scripts, too, but that is never reflected in the acting.

So you write in longhand? I'd never get done that way, Hemingway. Or don't you also stand. I can't write as fast as I think, which is probably why my handwriting got so illegible. I once won a penmanship honor! (Spencerian. If that is too far back for you, it refers to the style of penmanship.)

If the Guinn tape doesn't show up, Hoch can replace it. Or has he stopped talking to you? I've not heard from him in a long time. The last report is that he has accepted the single-bullet theory. That and Lifton, too?

Matter of fact I was curious to know how your book was doing, so thanks for the copy of the story. (You'd written, "I don't think you want to hear too much about that.") Haven't you yet realized that I am a minority of one in the field and that there isn't anyone who asked for help I turned down? Even a couple I despise? My views have not changed and what criticism I offered and you did not accept didn't change how I feel about you as a person or a writer. And, as I told you, I didn't take up the cudgels, either. Old-fashioned belief, Henry.

I believe that Kantor knew Lesar through Bud, but I'm not sure. After you finished your book I read Kantor's, and it didn't change my mind about Ruby. But despite disgreeing with him I could have directed him to a few things he would, I think, have wanted to use. You say you did not try to tell him the specifics, but I'd appreciate it, if you are in touch again, if you tell him simply that they have a judgement against me and I think are establishing repressive precedent based on totally undenied perjury, fraud and misrepresentation. Rather than leave it general. And that because they created a conflict between Jim and me I'm pro se, with no choice.

I've just gotten something that may interest the householder in you, a blower/vacuum for outside use. Remember the long lane of pines? They shed needles and blossoms and pollen and all of it, blows and blows and clogs the pool. I've been sweeping it and stacking it for mulch. I'll see if this saves work and if it works well on leaves. Too hot and humid for me to try it today.

Thanks and best wishes,

Harold